

of receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution. An annual report based on the information received from such association is prepared by the Central Government and copies thereof sent to the State Governments for their information and report on violation, if any, of the provisions of the Act by the concerned associations.

[English]

Development of Animal Husbandry Sector

2213. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the main thrust on which Ninth Plan proposals are being formulated for development of Animal Husbandry sector ;

(b) the special areas of interest identified for the North-East region and the financial outlays earmarked during the Ninth Plan period including the current financial year ;

(c) whether the proposals include establishment of a State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science University as proposed by the Government of Assam ;

(d) whether the Assam Livestock and Poultry Corporation Ltd. had submitted an employment generating scheme titled "Integrated District Livestock and Poultry Development Centre"; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the allocation made for the project during the Ninth Plan and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The main thrust areas on which the Ninth Plan proposals have been formulated relate to improving the production and productivity potential of the livestock with the objective of improving the income, nutrition and employment opportunities in rural areas. The Ninth Plan proposals have not yet been approved by the Planning Commission. However, for the current financial year, 1997-98., a minimum of 10% of the Department's budget has been earmarked for the North East. Special areas prioritised for North East are genetic upgradation of stock, higher allocation for piggery and poultry sectors, and strengthening of infrastructural facilities available.

(c) to (e) Schemes from Government of Assam have been received in this Ministry. The schemes are under examination, as the Ninth Plan allocation is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

Child Homes

2214. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Many of them lose their

childhood at home" appearing in the *Pioneer* dated June 11, 1997 relating to the deplorable conditions prevailing in the children Homes in Delhi;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reports therein ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Even prior to the publication of the said Newsitem, recognising the highly unsatisfactory conditions prevalent in the Homes for Children in Delhi and other parts of the country, the Ministry of Welfare has asked the various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations responsible for their management to take remedial action. The Ministry also provides financial assistance to enable the States and Union Territories to establish and maintain facilities for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected and delinquent juveniles consistent with the provisions made in this regard in the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.

Technology Mission of Black Pepper

2215. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the productivity of pepper/black pepper in India is low in comparison to the world standard ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any plan to improve the productivity of pepper or to set up any technology mission of pepper/black pepper in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the productivity of pepper/black pepper in the major pepper/producing centres; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to improve the productivity of pepper/black pepper at par with the world standard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The reasons of low productivity are as under :

(i) Cultivation of black pepper as inter-crop with other horticulture crops.

(ii) Old varieties of poor genotypes with low productivity.

(iii) Prevalence of disease and pest; and

(iv) Lack of adequate attention by the farmers on rejuvenation/replanting of old gardens.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Kerala has proposed technology mission for black pepper for implementation as a state activity. The mission envisages to pool available resources and efforts and integrate the activities of all State and Central institutions/agencies located in the state and involved in development of this crop to work towards objective of improving production and productivity of black pepper.

(e) Does not arise.

Approval for Utilising the Grant for Consumer Courts

2216. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra, seeking approval for utilising the financial grants given for strengthening the consumer courts for the years 1995 and 1996, aggregating to Rs. 173.80, during the financial year 1997-98;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in the matter ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Government has already accorded permission to the Government of Maharashtra to utilise the grant sanctioned in 1995-97 for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts during the year 1997-98.

Curtailing the Production of Penicillin-G

2217. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association have represented to the Government for devising a mechanism to curtail the production of domestic Pen.G manufacturers to help in stabilising the price of the bulk drug which has slumped in the recent times due to a large gaps in demand and supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the details of fresh policy initiatives taken by the Government in regard to production of Pen. G and other bulk drugs during the last 16 months upto 31.7.1997?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation has been received from the Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association in which they have suggested

that all the five major manufacturers of Pen.G namely, SPIC, TGBL, JKPL, HMGB and Alembic should be advised to voluntarily restrict their production to the level of 75% of what they are producing today. However, the Govt. has no power under any rule to enforce reduction in the production of Pen.G.

(c) Steps taken to encourage production of Bulk Drugs form a part of the modification in Drug Policy, 1986, which came into effect from September, 1994, inter-alia, are :

(i) Industrial Licensing has been done away with except in a few cases.

(ii) Reduction in Customs Duty on raw material/ Intermediates.

(iii) Liberalisation in foreign investment.

(iv) Simplification of pricing system.

Joint Meeting on Agricultural Research

2218. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any joint meeting has been held between Indian agricultural scientists/experts with developed/ developing countries for mutual understanding, strengthening bilateral cooperation and identify areas for joint agricultural research during the last one year and till July 31, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and outcome thereof ; country-wise ; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) ICAR held a joint workshop with Overseas Development Administration (ODA) UK on 5th-6th February, 1997 and Indo-ACIAR (Australian Centre for Inter-national Agricultural Research) Consultation on 10-11 July, 1997 for cooperation in the field of agricultural research.

(b) The issues discussed in the ICAR-ODA Joint Workshop included : natural resources system, plant science programme, crop protection, biotechnology, post-harvest technology, farm implement, animal health, livestock production, fishery sciences, dryland agriculture and watershed management, peri-urban interface, water quality and agro-forestry system. In the Indo-ACIAR Consultation the issues discussed were : Overview of Indo-ACIAR program, Perspective on future National Research Priorities, Opportunities for Australia's Assistance, Priorities for future ACIAR-India collaboration in agricultural research. The priorities areas have been identified for collaboration with ODA and ACIAR in the fields of crop improvement, post-harvest technology, animal sciences, natural resources management, forestry, fisheries, agriculture natural resources economics and system capacity building.